Failure of State to Implement Antyodaya Yojana

2635. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to the news item captioned "States fail to implement Antyodaya Yojana" appearing in the "Indian Express" dated the 27th July, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The news paper report on 'States fail to implement Antyodaya Anna Yojana' gives the position of implementation of Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) in Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura, Assam, Jammu & Kashmir, Meghalaya, Gujarat, Haryana, Maharashtra and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

The Antyodaya Anna Yojana has now been implemented in all States/UTs except Arunachal Pradesh, Delhi, Manipur, Tamil Nadu and Lakshadweep, where the status of implementation of the scheme is as under :—

Arunachal Pradesh—The State Government had expressed difficulties in the implementation of AAY, as the transport and administrative expenses on delivering the foodgrains were beyond the means of the State Government and had requested that "Hill Transport Subsidy" be allowed for transportation of AAY foodgrain. Hill Transport Subsidy has been already provided to the State Government for distribution of foodgrains to the BPL families and the same has been extended to foodgrains meant for distribution under AAY. This decision has been conveyed to the State Government by the Government of India and the State Government has reports action has been initiated to implement the scheme. Allocation of foodgrains will be made as soon as State Government confirms that distinctive ration cards have been issued.

Delhi—The NCT of Delhi commenced the identification of Antyodaya beneficiaries only after approval by the Cabinet. In response to the Supreme Court's Order in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 196/2001, the State Government had reported that identification of beneficiaries (BPL and Antyodaya) shall be completed by 30-11-2001.

Manipur The Government of Manipur have completed the identification of Antyodaya beneficiaries. Confirmation on distribution of distinctive ration cards to the beneficiaries is awaited for allocation of foodgrains under the scheme.

Tamil Nadu—The State Government initially did not start the work of implementation of AAY as State Government had requested that the benefits under the scheme should cover old age persons and destitute pension scheme beneficiaries. The State Government was, however, asked to launch the scheme so as to address the food security concerns of the most vulnerable sections of the society who are living in families. Confirmation regarding the task of issue of distinctive ration cards is awaited from the State Government for allocation of foodgrains under the scheme.

Lakshadweep—The Administration has completed the task of identification and issued distinctive ration cards to 400 Antyodaya families. Allocation of foodgrains under AAY is in process.

Export target for Wheat and Rice

2636. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export target for wheat and rice has not been achieved and is not likely to be achieved by the year end;

(b) if so, the target and the achievement till date;

(c) the reasons for sluggish demand from other countries; and

(d) the steps taken to remedy the situation and boost exports of rice and wheat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) For 2001-2002, 50 lakh MTs of wheat and 30 lakhs MTs rice respectively have been earmarked for export from the Central Pool. Against this 18.50 lakh MTs of wheat and 2.51 lakh MTs of rice have been shipped upto 31-10-2001. Food Corporation of India has allotted so far quantity of 41.51 lakh MTs of wheat and 11.73 lakh MTs of rice for export.